

Application No. 10/623,200
Amendment dated October 15, 2007
After Final Office Action of July 16, 2007

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Docket No.: 58952(49363)

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-10 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Reconsideration of the present application, in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite, *inter alia*, "a proximal tip portion and a threaded engagement portion integrally formed with the engagement stem, longitudinally distal to the proximal tip portion thereof..." and that the claimed threaded engaging section of the ported connector fitting is disposed "longitudinally distal to the proximal receiving section...." Support for this amendment is found throughout the Specification and Drawings as originally filed, for example in Figures 1, 4, 5 and 8. No new matter has been added.

Interview Summary

Applicant hereby confirms that the information set forth in the Examiner's Interview Summary dated September 25, 2007 is correct.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0077684 to Clemens et al. ("Clemens") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0077683 to Westlund et al. ("Westlund"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Clemens has been relied upon by the Final Office Action for disclosing the majority of elements recited in independent claim 1. Westlund has been relied upon for disclosing a threaded connection, which the Final Office Action argues, in combination with the teachings of Clemens, renders Applicant's former claims 1 and 4-10 obvious.

Clemens describes a lead body (12) with a plurality of lumens extending therethrough and an adapter (58) having a plurality of ports. Clemens fails to provide any

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written description or illustration of the manner in which the lumens of the lead body communicate with the ports of the adapter

With reference to Figure 9 of Westlund, a seal mechanism (820), including a body (830), a locking hub (821) and an elastomeric grommet (822) are illustrated. The locking hub is connected by way of threads to the body portion (830). The elastomeric grommet (822) is in contact with the terminal pin (860) of the lead, and is compressed around the terminal pin (860) to form a seal therebetween. Neither the threaded locking hub (821), nor the body (830) of the seal mechanism (820) is part of, nor do these elements even come in contact with the lead or the terminal pin (860) thereof.

As currently amended, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an implantable cardiac lead having a connector with an engagement stem including "a proximal tip portion and a threaded engagement portion *integrally formed with the engagement stem*, longitudinally distal to the proximal tip portion thereof...."

With regard to Westlund, the Final Office Action states, "...the combination of the terminal pin (860) and locking hub (821) have been interpreted by the examiner to comprise the engagement stem (Fig. 9). As such, the locking hub of Westlund has threads on it, the engagement stem has threads." See Final Office Action, page 5, last paragraph.

However, as set forth above, the locking hub 821 of Westlund, is in no manner in contact with, or integrally formed with, the terminal pin (860) of Westlund. Moreover, even if the locking hub (821) were considered to be part of the terminal pin (860), the treaded portion of the locking hub would not be distal to the terminal pin (860), as recited in independent claim 1. See Specification, page 7, paragraph 1 (paragraph [0026] of the published application).

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1, and each claim depending therefrom, define patentable subject matter over Clemens and Westlund, considered alone or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Clemens and Westlund is therefore respectfully requested.

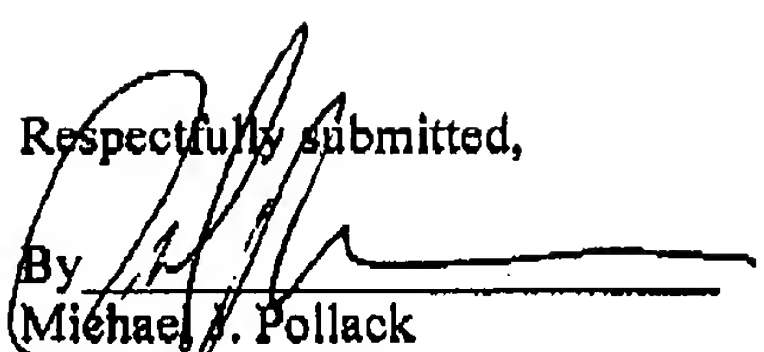
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